

GAO

United States
General Accounting Office
Washington, D.C. 20548

ER 88-4782

Program Evaluation and
Methodology Division

December 22, 1988

Mr. Robert M. Gates
Deputy Director
Central Intelligence Agency

Dear Mr. Gates:

John McMahon told me yesterday over the phone that you would be willing to arrange a briefing for my staff and me on CIA views of low-intensity warfare. This is a subject that has long interested me in that it poses some important questions about the role of technology and especially of technology transfer. At present, we (the Program Evaluation and Methodology Division of GAO) have been requested by Chairman Brooks of the House Government Operations Committee simply to study the nature of low-intensity warfare as faced by the U.S. Armed Forces in recent times.

What we need essentially from our CIA briefing is to get your agency's perspective on a number of questions, including the following:

- What is the CIA's assessment of the threat to the U.S. posed by low-intensity warfare?
- For what elements of the threat does the CIA see the need for a weapons technology response?
- In your view, what are the changes that have occurred in the level of weapons technology available to meet the threat, and what predictions would you make about the future?
- What weapons, weapons technologies, environments, and missions do you feel U.S. forces are most likely to have to face?
- What do you see as needed requirements to meet the threat? What types of intelligence are needed?
- What in your view are the elements (technological and/or non-technological) of a successful strategy for meeting the threat?

Thank you very much for agreeing to talk with us on this issue. I think it is critical for the CIA's views to be represented in our study.

With kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Eleanor Chelimsky".

Eleanor Chelimsky
Assistant Comptroller General

cc: Mr. McMahon